

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Takikita (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,524 B1). These claims were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Since Takikita is assigned to the same assignee as the present application and is an applicable reference, by virtue of its U.S. filing date, only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Takikita may not be applied as a § 103(a) reference against the present invention because the subject matter of Takikita and the present invention were, at the time the present invention was made, owned by Mitsubishi Denki Kabushiki Kaisha. See § 103(c). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that Takikita be removed as a prior art reference under §103(a).

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/688,834

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60831

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

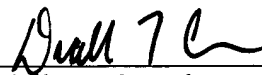
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 9, 2005